Special Voluntary Fund for participation of developing countries
(General Assembly resolution 47/188, para 15)
Status of contributions as of 20 August 1993

	Special Voluntary Fund	
	Pledges	Contributions
	(US dollars)	
MEMBER STATES		
Canada*	77,662	77,662
Denmark	200,000	200,000
France*	66,667	-
Germany*	174,418	-
Japan	to be announced	-
Norway*	199,985	199,985
Spain*	42,025	42,025
Sweden*	300,000	262,280
Switzerland*	66,013	66,013
United Kingdom*	74,460	74,460
USA	50,000	50,000
TOTAL	1,251,230	972,425

* Approximate US dollar equivalent of local currency pledge.

4. These resources have been largely used in connection with the first and second substantive sessions of the Committee. In extending assistance to the countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, due attention has been paid to the particular situation of the countries concerned, as well as precedents established recently by negotiating processes on Climate Change and Biodiversity.

5. In light of the above considerations the Secretariat issued travel authorizations to one delegate from about 70 countries including most LDCs and a significant number of developing countries affected by desertification and drought as specified in paragraph 15 of General Assembly's resolution 47/188.

6. In addition, financial assistance has been extended to representatives of developing countries who are members of the Bureau of the Committee and its two Working Groups, in order to ensure that the delegates concerned have no difficulty in participating in the Committee's work.

7. It is estimated that the cost to the Fund of these arrangements for the second session will be in the order of $350,000.00.

8. Should similar arrangements be adopted for the third, fourth and fifth sessions (New York, Geneva and Paris) the total amount required for this Fund would amount to US$2,400,000.00. In light of this situation, the Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to make the necessary contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund.

9. The Committee may also wish to give further guidance to the Executive Secretary concerning the adequacy of the arrangements made in respect of the use of the Fund for participation in the first and second substantive sessions and concerning its future use.

II. TRUST FUND FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

10. The General Assembly, by its resolution 47/228, paragraph 13 decided that "the negotiating process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a Trust Fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations..." It also urged "governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non governmental organizations, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund."

11. The current situation concerning pledges and contributions is shown in the following table. A number of countries which had pledged have made contributions while others have pledged without specifying the amounts of their envisaged contributions. The following countries made such pledges: Denmark, Germany, Japan, Spain and Sweden. The Secretariat has established contacts with other countries as well as Agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations to enlist their support.

Trust Fund for the Negotiating Process
Status of contributions as of 20 August 1993

	Trust Fund for Preparatory Activities	
	Pledges	Contributions
	(US dollars)	
MEMBER STATES		
Australia*	34,915	34,915
Canada*	134,982	134,982
Cyprus	1,000	1,000
Denmark	to be announced	-
Finland*	91,000	-
France*	100,000	-
Germany	to be announced	-
Italy*	93,750	-
Japan	to be announced	-
Netherlands*	518,134	-
Norway*	149,978	149,978
Spain	to be announced	-
Sweden	to be announced	-
Switzerland*	267,296	125,310
USA	200,000	200,000
OTHERS		
UNDP/UNCDF	360,000	-
UNEP	300,000	250,000
TOTAL	2,251,055	896,185

* Approximate US dollar equivalent of local currency pledge.

12. At the time of the adoption of resolution 47/188, the General Assembly was informed that estimated costs in 1993 and 1994 for staff and conference servicing in connection with the work of the Committee would be absorbed in the United Nations Programme Budget for those years. Interim measures were taken for a period of three months from January to March 1993, for the establishment of the Ad Hoc secretariat and the initiation of the required action, pending consideration of resource levels at the resumed 47th session of the General Assembly. Subsequently, three professional level posts and four general service posts were provided from the regular budget for the remainder of 1993, and two senior posts were loaned from the resources of the Department of Administration and Management. A modest level of funds to cover non-staff costs was also provided. The Voluntary Fund was established for the purpose of supplementing the resources to be provided by the regular budget. It was pointed out that these additional resources were required to enable the Secretariat to undertake activities designed to provide the necessary support to the negotiating process including preparatory substantive work at the national, regional and global levels. As summarized in the Aide Memoire attached to the Secretary General's note verbale, the Secretariat estimated the extrabudgetary resources needed at US$3.2 million, to enable it to carry out the activities identified.

13. A senior official has been recruited for one year using the resources available in the Fund. Further, the Executive Secretary is discussing with some UN organizations (UNDP, UNEP, WMO and FAO) the possibility of obtaining the secondment of staff by them to the Secretariat on a full or part-time basis. As far as governments are concerned, the Governments of Canada and Switzerland have each financed one expert, and the Secretariat is in contact with France, Germany and Spain to obtain the secondment of civil servants or the financing of experts. Other staff members, both professional and general service, are being made available from the United Nations Secretariat, other institutions or will be recruited as temporary staff financed from the Fund.

14. The Committee may wish to call upon potential donors to respond to the need for contributions to the Trust Fund so as to enable the Secretariat to launch the activities designed to support the negotiating process.